


fully traverse these rejections because Claims 4-7, 17-31, and 33 are novel and nonobvious over the prior art for the reasons of record (including the reasons set forth in the Applicants' March 6, 2000 response).

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

This response cancels Claim 32 and adds new Claim 33. The cancellation and addition described in the preceding sentence were done to claim the scope of the invention that the Applicants choose to claim and were not done to overcome the prior art. The cancellation and addition described in the first sentence of this paragraph shall not be considered necessary to overcome the prior art.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415 and, in particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this Response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of



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months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

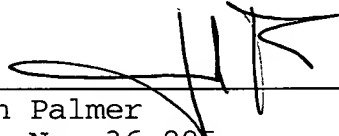
May 4, 2001
(Date of Deposit)

JOHN PALMER
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,


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